

## CHAPTER 5: ROME- The Enemy Relentless- moving from the Roman helmet to the crack that breaks that image in our midst

### Overview: The Coordinated Barrage- part 1



My overview of Roman history is not intended to be exhaustive, but it is accurate and assembled to illustrate my vital point that will reflect and be compared to the word of God. I will be bridging history to the word of God. To the essential point that all of history impacts how the Body of Christ functions today. Specifically, the Roman Empire as a devised, planned system of control.

Through "Rhema" words from heaven, I have come to understand this coordinated barrage. As "Papa" has said: ***"there has been a coordinated barrage against apostleship throughout history."*** To understand the profound impact of apostleship as God's primary ministry gift is the purpose of this journal. To see its systematic undoing throughout history is to discern

the point even further. I am attempting to unlock this complex puzzle to show that the significant shifts in church history were not accidental—they were planned by the enemy. I am attempting to "peel back the layers" of deception and clear the path to God's intended design.

### **A Portent in the Manger**

There is a reason Herod's men followed the Magi to the manger where Jesus was born. Merely a foreshadowing. It was a portent of the future—a dark omen of the future. Dark horses lingered on the mountaintops peering at the child Jesus whom they feared. They believed the stars foretold Herod as king—and no one could take that place. The same spirit that drove Herod to peer at the child Jesus from the mountaintops is the spirit that seeks to extinguish the apostolic fire today. Herod feared a rival King because he believed the stars belonged to him alone.

When Herod ordered the massacre of the innocents, Jesus and His family fled to Egypt. God protected Him because He had a ministry to fulfill. We are no different; God protects us in our service. However, the enemy realized that to truly stifle the Gospel, he needed more than a single King—he needed the formation of a **cult**. Only then could he persecute completely.

### **Defining the "Cultus"**

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a *cult* is a group that exercises excessive control over its members. Derived from the Latin *cultus* (meaning "worship" or "tillage"), it often centers on extreme devotion to a single charismatic leader. Whether personality cults, political cults, or money cults, they all demand a devotion that eventually leads to extremes of behavior.

## **The Strong Spirit: It Began Here**

Rome's legendary origins date back to **753 BC**. From its inception, Rome has been included in world history as a monarchy—a system of "rule by one." It operated through **hierarchy**: a society of strict classes where one man exercises absolute authority over others. Codes of behavior with all the rules of a cult. A society with culture and education but its subjects were rewarded heavily for adherence to the state and aggression.

As the Lord has said, "*It was a godless society.*" More importantly, He warns us: "*The spirit of Rome is still running rampant today in the church.*" This is the crux of our understanding: Rome and the Church became two joined entities—the combining of two spiritual kingdoms. This occurred because human acceptance is the driving force that gives the spirit realm power. Jesus taught us to seek the Kingdom first (**Matthew 6:33**). He knew that if we neglected His "Righteous Acts of Ministry," we would eventually accept other gods. The "Kingdom of God" is His right to rule; however, His authority in the earth is often dependent upon our response to minister under that authority. Without Him on the throne of our hearts, we easily become tools of the enemy. Rome is the ultimate historical example of this.

## **Enter Jesus: The Apostolic Blueprint**

While Jesus walked the earth, He was not just performing miracles; He was setting the blueprint for apostolic ministry. He moved His followers from being "learners" (disciples) to "sent ones" (apostles). Great works and demonstration of God's love were evident to all as the apostles learned how

to function in the gifts He gave. They were fulfilling the new testament function of service. Becoming the manifold wisdom of God in the earth.

The lame walked, the blind received sight, saw, sins were forgiven, and demoniacs were delivered from a hellish enslavement. In doing this, Jesus was showing the Body of Christ how to function after His departure. He promised to leave us His power and wisdom: *“As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you”* (**John 20:21**).

When Jesus healed the sick, and saved the sin sick soul, He was showing us the very will and heart of the Father. What love He has conferred on us through His Son ! What obedience it took to save us ! The will of the Father is so thoroughly good. He wills that none should perish!

The Father provided a way for us to be right with Him ! Why not take the free gift of His son. Simply say- I am a sinner. I accept Jesus as my payment for sin. Whew ! Your name is in the book of life !

Jesus came to show us the heart of God. When He healed, He was revealing the Father's will—that none should perish (**2 Peter 3:9**). His obedience led Him to the cross to take our punishment. Sound narrow ? It is actually the way of sheer love. A sacrifice has been made for us. It was not easy- He took the narrow way for us. He only asks of us now to follow Him on a path that is not broad and filled with sin. He knows the way.

### **The Clash of Kingdoms: Equality vs. Hierarchy**

However, the most intellectual minds of Greece and Rome turned their backs on these miracles. Considering greatness to be found largely in societal

dominance, endless self-promotion and military rule. While capable of cultural progress, the spirit that moved them was one of aggression and dominance, subjecting many to a life of fear. While they built roads and bridges, the spirit moving them was one of aggression. This very same spirit has never left the premises. It lingers on in different forms. The enemy has found a way to keep the pot boiling. And He did so in the most unlikely of places- the church. Rome was all about power and money in a strict hierarchy to ensure their future. All this without the God who loved them. The opposite of God's eternal kingdom with our loving Jesus as the only head or governing. He offers forgiveness and then rules with the love and gentleness of a lamb. The idea and formation of hierarchy comes from the enemy. It is his great plot- have we recognized him? This is the **spirit of Antichrist**.

Rome was built on power and money within a strict hierarchy. This is the polar opposite of God's Kingdom, which operates by **love and equality**.

- **Hierarchy:** A system of organization in which people or groups are ranked one above the other according to status or authority..
- **Hieratic:** Specifically, the arrangement of clergy in ranks of authority.

Jesus explicitly commanded in **Luke 22:25-26**: *"The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them... but not so among you."* Hierarchy opposes the very nature of God. His kingdom is one of gentle service from equality. Throughout history, we see the "Roman Spirit" in slavery, feudalism, and caste systems. It is never an intelligent system; its end result is always closer to death than godly prosperity. This is not to say we have all the elements of savage Rome in the church. It is to say that the very same strong spirit of

Rome has weakened the church in ways that are undetected. It lingers in another form. The church is now a pyramid scheme that prospers only a few. This is what makes it corrupt. It is Satan's dream that we hold one person above another in systems that are cruel and pose as God. These places are his strongholds. This is the ignorance of His real love will that took over the Roman mind. Without the true god they belonged to this present world with all its temptations and sin. It had very little impact on them that the Son of God was able to perform miracles in their presence. They refused to acknowledge His power given in love. Nothing could change their hearts. They possessed an almost flattened reaction to the miracles Jesus was performing. The carnal mind of the Roman was implacable. Unteachable to the things of God. A dark generational ignorance held the roman mind in place, it would hold no mercy or grace. Only brute force was in their hearts to obtain success in this world alone. Never thinking of life beyond the grave. The dilemma of every sinner who remains without the life of God who is love within. It was from this place the enemy could launch his most subtle and devious plan against the kingdom of God. In the modern church, this has manifested as a "pyramid scheme" that prospers a few while disabling the many. With a top heavy authority and the absence of the ministry gifts.

### **The Great Transition (300 AD)**

The Roman Empire operated by controlling people through their pockets. When the Roman system "overcame" the Christian church around **300 AD** (the Constantinian shift), the governmental system of the Empire became the operational basis of the Church.

The enemy's chief aim was to control the money and the movement. They did this through several "Old Covenant traps":

1. **The Institutionalization of the Tithe:** They took the Old Testament Mosaic law regarding tithing—which was fulfilled in Christ—and turned it into a mandatory civil tax.
2. **The Invention of a "Clergy Caste":** Since the Bible stated only Levites/Priests could collect tithes, the Romans simply "made" a new class of priests to justify the collection. They turned "ministry" (service) into a "title" (rulership).
3. **Mandatory Sabbath Law:** The Emperor enforced Sunday as a mandatory day of rest, not for spiritual devotion, but to ensure a "collection" could be taken from every citizen.
4. **The Redefinition of "Saints":** In the New Testament, "saints" referred to all believers, and collections were for "the saints" in need. Rome codified and regulated "sainthood," creating a system where people paid for favors from deceased saints, with the money flowing to the hierarchy.
5. **From Homes to Buildings:** The "House of God" was redefined from the "Ekklesia" (the gathering of people) to an official, approved building. This destroyed the primary footing of apostleship, which relied on the organic setting of the home to reach the lost.

Before this transition, the early church lived in a "primitive" but powerful time. They met in catacombs to avoid the whim of the Emperor. But through this subtle "merger" in the 4th century with Rome, the enemy launched his most devious plan- he stopped trying to kill the Christians from the outside and started trying to control them from the inside.

## **THE CULT OF ROME & THE CONSTANTINIAN MERGER**

### **Jesus Sent: The Divine Intrusion**

This was the world into which Jesus was born. He submitted to the Father's will, fully understanding His mission. I remember the Lord speaking to me once as I pondered the gravity of my own early life: "*I sent you anyway.*" Our Lord knew we would need Him; even the brutality of Rome did not deter His love. He arrived on this sin-infested planet, a political and spiritual hotbed of murderous legalities, ready to save any who would listen. The simplicity of His plan confounded the "genius" of Rome. As we peel back the layers, we see that the enemy is still using the Roman blueprint to stifle that same simplicity today.

### **The Cult of the Emperor**

The unleashing of the "Roman Spirit" into the Christian faith came largely by the role of the Emperor who was now positioned as the head of the Church. This inception of hierarchy and authority came to dominate christianity and its operational ability to this very day. Through the councils and rules that emperors dictated the church lost sight of her first love and so much more. Now the church included strict legislation and rules that were imposed upon believers. To be called a heretic or to be excommunicated or diminished in status was the fate of all who resisted. To be called a heretic could mean death. Rome, which is secular and ungodly in spirit, came to dominate Christian operation and doctrine through imperial councils and strict legislation. To resist was to be labeled a "heretic," a designation that often carried a death sentence. The war was on. Two churches. Satan found the handcuff without keys- the ring would never leave our finger.

This ungodly combination was the "super mud" that seeped into Christianity. It didn't thoroughly ignore the Word of God, but it placed such a heavy weight of human authority upon it that the Word was held hostage for centuries. Under this "ugly trick," the Word came under human jurisdiction rather than the Holy Spirit's impartation.

Rome is the principality that has held like cement to limit our freedom in Christ. This same system is what will be revived in the end times—the system of the Antichrist. The longer a principality works through the agreement of man, the stronger it grows.

A few clerics then held the word of God hostage for centuries. They were the only ones who could read. For a thousand years the catholics held the bible in monasteries. The word of God itself came under human authority. And with that complication so the downfall of the internal spiritual growth of millions. Churning out christians who were held under the authority of man. Without the impartation of the Holy Spirit. Who imparts perfect understanding. The ugly trick of the enemy. Enough to undo the effectiveness of ministry for centuries.

Rome had risen up. It is this same Roman Empire that will be revived at the end of times, and will come against the christian and Christ Himself. The very same system of the antichrist who will develop and implement the mark of the beast.

The longer a principality is working on the earth through the agreement of man, the stronger it gets. Rome is the principality that held like cement to severely limit our freedom and function for Christ.

Simply by not understanding and applying the word of God in its entirety and excluding the ministry gifts, has allowed the spirit of Rome dominance in our midst. It persecuted God and His people and lingered in the church. It will be revived blatantly at the end of days.

### **From Movement to Institution: The 11th Century Weaponization**

However well-intended some may have been, a sequence of leaders used their authority to enforce new patterns of Christianity. This was a weaponization of the faith. By the 4th and 5th centuries, Christianity had become a brand of the Roman State, dependent on imperial structures. It grew in *quantity* but lacked the *quality* of the Spirit.

By the **11th Century** (during the Gregorian Reforms), this evolution reached a peak. Christianity borrowed techniques from **Roman Law** to turn God's love into a legal institution capable of exercising authority over all of Europe. This is the "smoking gun": the separation of the Body of Christ from the organic, living movement described in **Ephesians 4**.

Today, the church service mimics the Roman State—replacing the *servant* with the *official*. This spiritual cage keeps souls from their true identity. We see a "weak tea" of repetition that fails to save the sin-sick soul or house the weary traveler. Where is our work (*ergos*)? It has dissolved into the soil of a "scoundrel's schedule"—a program-heavy system that ignores the hungry and the naked.



## The Three Great Lies of the Roman Spirit

The Roman persecutions were preceded by three great lies embodied in their culture. I will juxtapose these with the modern church. You may draw your own conclusions:

<b>The Roman Imperial Lie</b>	<b>The Modern Institutional Parallel</b>	<b>The New Testament Reality</b>
<p><b>1.</b> The Emperor is God/Divine.</p>	<p>The Pastor/Leader is the absolute head; his "genius" is superior.</p>	<p>Christ is the Head; we are all brothers (<b>Matt 23:8</b>).</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Total submission to the leader's "Genius."</p>	<p>Other ministerial gifts (Apostles, Prophets) are irrelevant or suppressed.</p>	<p>The Five-fold ministry is required for maturity (<b>Eph 4:11</b>).</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Destroy all rival powers.</p>	<p>The "Infallibility of the Pulpit"; defending the office over the Word.</p>	<p>Test all things; hold fast to what is good (<b>1 Thess 5:21</b>).</p>

## **Constantine: The Deadly Merger**

It was a great turning point in Western history when Constantine, who while preparing for civil battle had a vision. While preparing to fight his rival, Maxentius, in a high stakes battle for control of the Roman Empire. He experienced a vision in the sky of a great cross or ankh. This is the one supernatural event that convinced him the christian God was real.

This event would change the entire trajectory of Christianity as well as the Roman Empire.

While marching with his army he looked up at the sun and saw a cross of light with the Greek words “ en touto nika” which means “ in this sign conquer” He then marked the shields of the soldiers with a C and an R or in the greek- Chi-Rho and Rho.

A voice said to him “conquer in my name” He took this as a voice from heaven urging him to fight in the name of Jesus.

He went on to win that battle and felt it was favor and a calling from the christian God and became converted to christianity.

Constantine then rose to power during this period of civil war. He reigned from 306-307

Whether Constantine saw a cross of light from our Lord is less important than what he did with it. He took a symbol of sacrificial love and turned it into a battle cry for an emperor.

Marching orders from another kingdom. Our Lord would never invite anyone to war.

This was not the end of the church's trouble as now it was entering the beginning of a great masquerade.

The King's family was now invited into a palace only to find the price of admission was their freedom and simplicity. Trading our spiritual birthright for civil power.

Constantine was the merger which took christianity from persecution to freedom. While it sounds wonderful, it was actually a "truck stop" that impeded the Gospel. Understand this complication from the spirit realm first and all the other pieces will fit into place- it is deeply spiritual. Which means the enemy has been all over it. His "Edict of Toleration" introduced a dangerous precedent: the Roman government now presided over church doctrine. A pivot of great significance. The council of Nicea (325 AD) would now ensure the unification of church and state to settle doctrinal issues. There is only one problem- this became the state supported mandate that replaced the only true head of the church who is Christ. They no longer acknowledged or needed the Holy Spirit and His guidance. It drove the hole in the true spirit led church with humanistic counsels and funding that enlarged its influence.

With the church now adopting the power structures of Rome and some of its coercive practices. The church began to mirror the Roman administrative structure as Constantine funded the building of basilicas and more.

Constantine as emperor of the west issued the edict of Milan 313 AD.

- 1) Proclaiming the legalization of Christianity granting freedom from persecution

- 2) Restoration of property- returning of property and land- return of confiscated goods
- 3) Ending the great persecution of Diocletian

Translating Christians from status of persecuted underground to a legally recognized dominant religion. Stating the release of Christians from persecution by law. It introduced the precedent that the Roman government and the emperor would specifically preside over church doctrine. The Nicene Creed and much more. Introducing the spiritual downgrade of secular authority running the church. *After the new rulership of Rome within the church, with a mandated Christianity, the need for apostleship became done away with.* After the new rulership of Rome within the church, within a mandated Christianity, the need for apostleship is now done away with. I repeated that as a matter of profound importance. I have never thought or stated or implied anything of more importance than those few words. Now we see how the undoing of apostleship and its primary role and effective function became a back burner idea that we barely understand or practice today.

The origin of the pulpit emerges from Rome. It was put in place so that the emperor and his delegates could head count the pagans. And then shout at them and teach them. To correct their pagan gods, and create in them a mandatory Christianity. This pulpit practice simply passed from one generation to another without questioning its origins. It was also used for Senate hearings and more shouting matches.



## CONSTANTINE~MORE

Constantine romanized the church. Everyone became a mandatory christian. This dissolved apostleship. New forms of ministry had to be invented. This was more than cultural happenstance. It was the plan of the highest order of demons. The old fox pulled out his most intelligent for this coupe. It had to seep in slowly. To remain undetected over many generations. Creating an ineffective church by our own consent.

Constantine gifted the new clergy the official garments of Rome and civil dignity. He supported them with land ownership and governmental positions. With no need for apostleship everyone accepted this new form of christianity. Essentially dressing the servants of Christ in the robes of the roman magistrate.

The habit has never left us- we have remained unaware of its original roots and spiritual tentacles. It has clung on for centuries. Creating a false church, A false sense of authority, importance, formality, officiations and ceremony sprung from the formal attire and elevated status of a few. A very Roman state of affairs. What we thought to be from God was really an invasion of

strong spiritual forces that severely limited our possibilities in Him. Human authority now presiding as head of the church, collecting tithe to further support the deception all usurping the place Christ deserves.

With our acceptance of this ancient forum, and our stubborn adherence in place, the enemy has all he needs to create a weak tea gospel at best.

Instead of Christ in all and through all, we are left with the ancient hierarchy of Rome. This is not to give endless criticisms to our many catholic friends. Who are well meaning christians. It is to say, many of them do not understand the roots of the church as I have described.

We are studying Rome from a godly perspective. From a biblical perspective reflecting what we are doing or not doing. Our enemy has also studied Rome. He did so in order to dissolve the effectiveness of apostleship. We are studying it to expose and dissolve him. We can put him out of business and correct ourselves through a pure new testament function. This will truly serve God and add to the numbers going to heaven quickly.

We are disentangling Rome from the mess we call church. Though it looks neat and tidy, in the eyes of the Lord it is a spiritual mess.

The enemy tangled the true church and Rome together. This study has increased our understanding of that unholy alliance. Just how he tricked us out of our true position in Christ. By integrating Rome's militaristic roots with an underground invasion is ours to understand.

Let's examine how the enemy keeps Rome going and how apostleship cannot emerge from that. Making it an impossibility. The ground is not fertile ground. Hardly a seed can be planted in this cold and frozen tundra of Rome. This small oversight has led to the downfall of millions of souls. To

accept and like things the way they are is to accept the decline of effectiveness. It is to deny the heart of God. This is why it is so important to God. What can I do to help you? I asked. He said write what you know. My heart.

- 1) We cannot apply the leadership positions of the old testament ministry to the whole body of Christ and expect new testament function. Jesus died to give us a new and active membership in His body with only Him as the head. Any and all old testament law will overcome and destroy our ministry by our own agreement.
- 2) As we apply the old testament rules of the temple it nullifies the work and ministry that new testament believers should be doing.

What are the Roman dictated and ancient rules that have translated to us?

Tradition- a long established custom or belief that has been passed from generation to generation. Established by leaders, founding fathers, and subsequently followed by others.

Deception- through hierarchy and control and authority that preceded us. Roman rule was accepted as the church service. Not just as the norm but as God's best will. Displayed before our eyes in a repetitive pattern which dominated our psyche and our pockets. Before we had a true understanding of our true function. Rome translated the new covenant church in a poor imitation of old covenant Israel. This is the place the enemy stole his ideas from. He had a plan. This has been the formation of the fallacies that have shaped our thinking for generations. The modern day church is saturated with a heavy fog that cripples our best function despite our best intentions.

These mindsets for generations have established the strong hold of the enemy from which he codes his agenda and nullifies God's. Deeply spiritual and yet easily understood once we see the word of God and compare it to the church service. Now we see the old testament being played out before us.

Authority- Rome translated to us its entire system of authority. Not holding the same severity- but leaving enough of itself behind to hinder our effective function. After the fall of Rome the church was the only remaining institution with a functioning structure. It is important to note how Rome then began to use the church and why. They now lacked funding and the previous infrastructure of their own generals and hierarchy. They now appointed the elders of the church to various tasks. Bishops were managing food, military and diplomatic negotiations. These governmental roles transitioned into what we see as church today. By assigning these roles to clergy-the church itself became increasingly redefined out of new testament function. It now held the many structures of the old covenant which included governing. Not the original intention of our Lord and his will. This new figurehead of Rome has never departed and new testament function has never truly been recovered.

When Christianity became mandatory, the "need" for simple apostleship was done away with. If everyone is already a "Christian" by law, why do you need an apostle to lay foundations or a prophet to bring correction? Constantine "Romanized" the church, inventing new forms of ministry to replace the biblical ones.

## The Robes of the Magistrate

Perhaps most tellingly, Constantine gifted the new clergy the official garments of Rome—the *vestments* of civil dignity. He dressed the servants of Christ in the robes of the Roman Magistrate. This habit has never left us. We see it in the "official" clothing and the false sense of importance that clings to church leadership. That "old fox" used Rome to fight against Jesus' ministry by making it look like a Roman senate hearing rather than a Spirit-led gathering.

The pulpit itself—shouting over the people from a high place—is a Roman orator's tradition, not a biblical one. We are living in the ancient ruins of Rome, and it is time to rebuild on the True Foundation.



### PART 3: THE TRADITION OF THE CAGE

#### The Deception of Tradition

**Tradition** is a long-established custom passed from generation to generation. When established by godly leaders, it can be a blessing; but when rooted in the

**Hierarchy of Rome**, it becomes a deception. We have been led to believe that the Roman structure is biblical, but in reality, Rome translated the New Covenant Church into a poor imitation of Old Covenant Israel.

This is the "heavy fog" that cripples our best function today. These mindsets have established a stronghold from which the enemy codes each new generation. It is deeply spiritual, yet easily understood once you pull back the curtain.

### **The Great Authority Swap (476 AD)**

Rome translated its entire system of authority to us. While it may not look like a military habitation today, the spirit remains. After the **Fall of Rome in 476 AD**, the Church was the only remaining institution with a functioning hierarchy. When the Roman generals vanished, the Bishops stepped in. They began managing food, military defense, and diplomatic negotiations.

For example, **Pope Leo the Great** negotiated with **Attila the Hun**—a task that historically would have fallen to a Roman General. Because of this societal collapse, the Church was redefined. Pastoral guidance, once used for spiritual help, was traded for legal jurisdiction. By the 11th century, the Church had become a governing power that mimicked the Roman state. This created a "figurehead" system that departed from the **Ephesians 4** model of ministry, losing the New Testament function in a mess of old-world politics. As Roman law was formally integrated into Canon Law (the legal system of the church) the church became a true state power.

In a state managed religion the pioneering spirit of the apostle became replaced by the bureaucracy of Rome. Infusing another spirit entirely on the heels of any apostolic liberty.

## **The Prison Swap: From Lions to Laws**

Satan has been masterful in using Roman authority as his primary stronghold. First to stop Christians and persecute them mercilessly. This happened physically. Fed to the lions. Then he became more clever. As the dictates of Rome dissipated- to throw them to lions grew weaker as a rule. Now he would infuse the dictates of Rome among us and over one another. Instead of feeding us to lions we would now fight among ourselves. No longer able to trap Christians in the catacombs or prisons- he would make the church into a prison. Infusing the hierarchy of Rome on believers with all the subtlety of comfort, pomp and rule- the trap had been set. No longer equals, our most powerful weapon- not existent. No longer beside one another- over and under one another. No longer love for each other- competition- for position and power. Leaving us a trail of nominal Christians sitting in an ineffective lump. Repeating the system everywhere for generations. Have we seen his trick yet?

Concise wrap

- **Phase One:** He used physical Roman authority to persecute Christians and throw them to the lions.
- **Phase Two:** When the Empire's physical power faded, he got clever. He infused the *spirit* of Rome into the Church itself.

Instead of feeding us to lions, he convinced us to fight amongst ourselves for rank and status. Instead of trapping us in literal prisons, he turned the **Church structure** into a prison. By infusing Roman hierarchy into the Body, he ensured we were no longer equals. This "Prison Swap" left the

Church as an ineffective, nominal lump, stripped of its most powerful weapon: **Unity in Equality.**

### **The Abuse of the Word**

After studying Rome and its cruel past, we need to have another even deeper thought. What we are truly looking at when we see Rome is human authority gone mad. It is the best example of the worst of human nature without godly transformation. It is an empire that has never met God and gave Him no place. To have met Him would mean a genuine inner transformation. The invitation is still open to anyone seeking truth. And yet, Roman authority claims to be working for Him today. Another service, another tithe, another song. Attempting to turn His laws and words for gain. This is why it is so important to understand the word of God correctly through the spirit of God. Not through a tangled mess of historical elements that have remained and are still posing as God. Should we as christians understand the word of God through the elements of our fallen nature for political or monetary gain- we are abusing the word. We need to know it is possible to abuse his word and his gifts of ministry !

Who has abused the word? Kings of ancient past used the church as a fiduciary that would pay them. To secure their deal, they took snippets from the word of God.

It was tradition for them to use the word of God and place their authority in it and ruled through the word.

The king had been granted his authority from God. This came from the belief in the Pope.

To show they were from God and in authority, and the church would pay them. These intimidation tactics became law. Eventually we broke away, in this country in particular. However this strong influence created a spiritual vacuum that has never truly been resolved. This spirit is still playing imposter in rule and regulation while hiding the ministry gifts.

When we look at Rome, we see human authority gone mad. It is the ultimate example of human nature without godly transformation. Yet, Roman authority still claims to work for God today in the shadow of the church, attempting to turn God's Word into gold.

The enemy is a master at misusing Scripture. Kings of the past used the Church as a "fiduciary" to pay for their wars, taking snippets of the Word to prove they were divinely appointed. This intimidation tactic became law. While we eventually "broke away" from state-mandated religion in the West, the spiritual vacuum was never truly resolved. This spirit is still posing as an "imposter God," using rules and regulations to hide the **Ministry Gifts** that were intended to set the people free.

### **The Catholic "Super-Glue"**

#### CONCLUSION: BEYOND THE MUD OF ROME

The Roman influence is still with us—in our pulpits, our titles, and our political leanings. But the Stone "cut without hands" is coming to strike the iron feet of the statue.

We must discern the spirit of the age. We must stop advocating for "Policy" over "Prophecy." We must refuse to blend Christ's Kingdom with the "filthy" world of human authority.

The enemy's final goal is to get us to make a spiritual decision in the midst of turmoil. **\*\*Do not make the trade.\*\*** Break free from the Roman lens. Reclaim your identity as a living stone. The winter is ending, and the Kingdom that shall never be destroyed is at the door.



The word *Catholic* means "universal." For centuries, this was the only church system, and it became a vast organization of power that exceeded even the authority of kings.

- **The Pope:** Meaning "Father" (*Papa*), a title that replaced the simple brotherhood of the early church.
- **The Diocese:** A term taken directly from Roman tax districts.

The Church adopted the Roman Imperial spirit through **Canon Law**. Pioneering (Apostleship) was replaced by **Administrative Function**. The prophetic voice was suppressed because spontaneity was viewed as a threat to imperial order. Today, the function of ministry gifts within the Body is often viewed not as a blessing, but as an "employment threat" or a "job steal" to those in the hierarchy.

### **Conclusion: A Living Organism or a Ritual Robot?**

The real tragedy of Rome among us is that the **Spirit of God** has been replaced with the **Ritual of Rome**.

If the Church had stayed true to the New Testament function of **Ephesians 4**, it would have remained a living organism that outlasted the Roman Empire. Instead, the Church became **ONE** with Rome. The power of the Gospel was intended to take down the power of Rome through internal transformation—the only relationship (Christ within us) that truly changes a human being.

The enemy fears the "correct formation" of the Church because it is the only thing he cannot control. We must recognize this Roman spirit, repent of the hierarchy, and return to the true apostolic foundations that the enemy has worked so hard to bury.

After the fall of the Roman Empire 476 the church was the only remaining institution. Most of western Europe had been converted to christianity. It is in this light we can now discern how the essence and function of what we call church was changing rapidly. Pastoral guidance and gifts that were once used in their correct form were now being used for legalities and jurisdiction. Moving to a governing role due to the fall of Rome and from a lack of funding and societal structure.

Thus creating a false office that departed from the actual work of the kingdom of God. This became accepted by tradition, and qualification rather than the acceptance of the word of God. Which was held under clerical rule, and then in the latin vulgate which prevented many from being educated. The thought of the ministry gifts in all was far from their mind, and by experience accepted what was presented in front of them as truth.

How we perceive the role of a pastor comes from these deeply embedded roots.

The church organized by Rome was now catholic. Catholic means universal, for centuries this was the only church. As time passed, the church became a vast organization of great power and wealth. Largely from the old covenant practice of tithe. The church acquired large swaths of land and acreage. Everyone was subject to its rules and regulations. It was the center of all life and law and even came to be a greater power than kings or nobility. The appointed head of the church was given the title “Pope” which means father. Under” the Pope were bishops and archbishops and parish priests. This hierarchy and status has never been mentioned in the word of God. It is the invention of man. From the roman empire from emperor to slave. Who were appointed districts, there was one or more for every village. Few people challenged the authority of the church. Those who disagreed were called heretics. They faced being brought to trial in church court, whipped, or even burned at the stake. All in the name of God. Bishops often wielded as much power as barons. They ruled over areas called dioceses- they ruled over priests and monasteries. They regulated the collection of tithes and other taxes within the dioceses. Making many bishops very rich.

The catholic church became the super glue that held the roman artillery in place. Love of emperor, love of Pope, love of church, took over ruling and reigning with Christ as kings and priest within our rights functioning in the ministry gifts. It is no wonder our Lord has said- Love the Lord your God with all your heart. Anything less will rob us and His kingdom and will result in a different kind of fruit.

## CHRISTENDOM

I leave you with this quote from Christendom The Triumph of a Religion

“ techniques borrowed from Roman law, allied with spectacular forgery, allowed the papacy to transform itself into an institution capable of exercising effective religious authority across virtually the whole of Europe” (Heather p. 21)

A sequence of Popes then weaponized this authority to define and enforce new patterns of christian piety among both the clergy and the different lay constituents of pre-reformation medieval christianity, many of which have been preserved to be the present in the roman catholic communion.”

What God intended as liberty or to set us at liberty to serve Him- the enemy took over with rank, power, prestige and command.

We are still today applying the leadership positions of the old testament ministry to the whole body of Christ. Jesus died to give us a new and active membership in his body. The goal of the enemy is to keep us in the old covenant. He knows it is weak. He knows it in no way compares to the power of the new testament power of Ephesians 4 which is our born again birth right. This is the backward motion he is looking for us to first swallow and then follow.

When we apply the rules of the old temple it nullifies the new testament. Lets examine how the catholic church and most of the church is still performing old testament rituals.

This quote states clearly how Roman law became an integral part of what we practice today as “ modern christianity.” We see how the papacy became a strong political weapon engorged with the wit and rule of another kingdom. Enforced piety became law. That which is not from the heart is not a true transformation. Laying the groundwork for the weak tea of church today. Having suppressed the power of apostleship in the world at large.

The power of the gospel was taking down the power of Rome. This was God's plan. Not through force or violence. Through understanding. Through conversion to Christianity which allowed men to see themselves. Sin within. The only religion that deals with it and has provided a solution. Jesus. The only relationship that is Christ within us, that changes a human being from the inside. The early church was initially in the correct formation with no other authority than God over their work and it was becoming a reality. The gospel is so powerful in this formation it should be no great wonder the enemy worked profusely throughout history to end it. He fears it. As time went on and with great political upheavals this ease of ministry took many turns.

The church adopted the Roman Imperial spirit by way of the law. Never truly withdrew from her power still today. Without recognizing this and true repentance and function of Eph 4 the church has never returned to apostleship.

Pioneering was replaced by administrator function. Cannon Law suppressed the prophetic voice. Falling silent she is today still held captive to church doctrine. Spontaneity became a threat to imperial order. The function of ministry gifts within the body of Christ viewed as an employment threat and a job steal.

The real tragedy of Rome among us is that the spirit of God has been replaced with the ritual formation of Rome. If the church had stayed true to the new testament function of apostleship and Ephesians 4 - it would have stayed a living organism that would have outlasted the Roman Empire instead of becoming ONE with them.

Heather, Peter. Christendom: The Triumph of a Religion, Alfred A. Knopf,  
2023